

ABC, Inc.

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OCT 30 1997

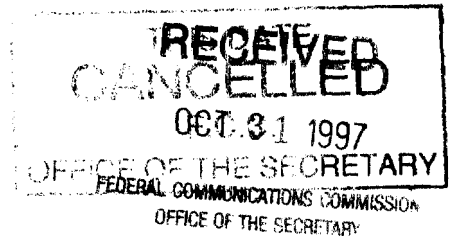
Sam Antar
Vice President
Law & Regulation
Legal

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 30, 1997

BC

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554



Re: In the Matter of Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact
Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service -- MM Docket
No. 87-268

Dear Mr. Caton:

Pursuant to the Fifth Report and Order in the captioned docket, we are submitting this status report to inform the Commission of our plans to meet our voluntary 18-month DTV construction commitment for stations KABC-TV, Los Angeles, KGO-TV, San Francisco, and WPVI-TV, Philadelphia. ABC has acted expeditiously to begin construction of DTV facilities for all three stations.

KABC-TV

KABC-TV has completed an evaluation of its current tower site on Mt. Wilson and has determined that it is suitable as a DTV antenna site. The station has contracted with Dielectric Communications, Inc. to design a DTV antenna configuration and is prepared to implement the contractor's recommendation. However, KABC-TV will not be able to make purchase commitments for its DTV transmitting antenna, transmission line or transmitter until its channel assignment is finally resolved. Our construction schedule assumes that this decision will be made no later than January 2, 1998. Any delay beyond that date would seriously jeopardize our ability to meet the November 1, 1998 commitment.

The Mt. Wilson site is located on federal property for which we have a Use Permit from the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. We will be required to file an amendment to our Use Permit once we are able to specify the technical details of our DTV operation. However that cannot be done until the station receives a final channel assignment.

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KGO-TV

KGO-TV's DTV station will transmit from Sutro tower, the location of its current channel 7 transmitter. The Sutro tower is also the location of the transmitters for nine other San Francisco television stations. The tower structure is being reinforced so that it will be able to accommodate the DTV facilities of all the stations. The reinforcement work is currently underway under the direction of Kline Towers, Inc. and is expected to be completed by November 15, 1997. The Sutro station group has also contracted with Dielectric Communications, Inc. to design a DTV antenna system. The antenna design has been completed and Dielectric has been given a contract to construct the system.

Before construction can begin, several existing antennas must be relocated in order to accommodate the new DTV installation. This is expected to be completed by December 15, 1997. Renovation of KGO's transmitter room space is underway to accommodate the DTV transmitter and is expected to be completed in March, 1998. This renovation includes new sources of primary and emergency power and additional HVAC to accommodate the DTV transmitter. The DTV transmission line components have already been delivered to the Sutro site.

KGO-TV has placed an order for a Harris Sigma CD100PI 8VSB IOT transmitter. However, Harris will not be able to build the transmitter until the station's channel assignment is finally resolved. In order to allow sufficient time for construction and delivery of the transmitter and for installation of the DTV antenna complex, our construction schedule assumes that this decision will be made no later than February 1, 1998. Any delay beyond that date would seriously jeopardize our ability to meet the November 1, 1998 commitment.

Pursuant to California state law, the Sutro station group filed an environmental impact report with the Commission. The report was filed in July 1997 and put out for public comment until September 10. Approximately 65 oppositions have been filed. The station group is preparing its written response to the oppositions and expects to file it very shortly. Under Commission procedures, the response will be published. Two weeks after publication, the Commission is expected to schedule a hearing. While we are hopeful that Commission approval will be obtained before the end of 1997, this approval process is potentially a source of delay.

October 30, 1997

WPVI-TV

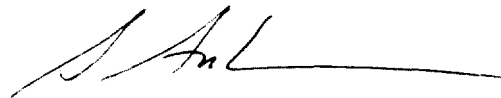
WPVI plans to construct a new 1277 foot tower at its current transmitter site for its DTV installation.

On April 14, 1997 the station filed an FAA application for the new tower. A "Determination of No Hazard To Air Navigation" was issued on October 12, 1997 and became final on October 22, 1997. In addition, the station filed for a variance of Philadelphia zoning regulations in July, 1997. This request was considered by the zoning board on September 16, 1997 and was not opposed. The variance was issued on October 21, 1997 and will become final in 30 days if no appeal is filed.

Tower construction proposals were received on October 20, 1997 and an order is expected to be placed in early November 1997 with promised completion on or about September 1, 1998.

WPVI expects to shortly place an order with Harris for a DTV transmitter. However, construction on the transmitter cannot begin until WPVI's DTV channel assignment is finally resolved. In addition, WPVI will be unable to place its order for a DTV antenna and transmission line until it receives its final channel assignment. Our construction schedule assumes that this decision will be made no later than January 2, 1998. Any delay beyond that date would seriously jeopardize our ability to meet the November 1, 1998 commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Antar", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Antar

SA/ak